Abstract

In order to assess the relationship between risky sexual behaviors and family functioning and locus of control, a sample of 95 (78% female and 22% male) young university students participated in the study. We first present the patterns of sexual behavior for the sample. Results for the predictor and criterion variables show an interaction for locus of control and family functioning as determinants of risky sexual behavior patterns. When students have internal locus of control, this directly impacts sexual behavior, but family functioning has no bearing. On the other hand, when external control is present, family functioning becomes important and between the two variables they predict that adolescents will present risky behaviors because they believe that the outcomes are out of their hands and they put emphasis on family, situational or divine explanations for their behavior. In general, the effects of traditional culture are evident in the behavioral patterns shown in the area of sexual health.

Keywords

Family functioning, Locus of control, Sexual behavior patterns.